

## OPINION 1088

DESIGNATION UNDER THE PLENARY POWERS OF A  
LECTOTYPE FOR *AMMONITES DEFOSsus* SIMPSON, 1843  
(CEPHALOPODA)

RULING.- (1) Under the plenary powers, all designations of type-specimen for the nominal species *Ammonites defossus* Simpson, 1843, are set aside and the specimen numbered B.11945 in the Sedgwick Museum, Cambridge, England, is hereby designated as lectotype of that species.

(2) The specific name *defossus* Simpson, 1843, as published in the binomen *Ammonites defossus*, is hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology with the Name Number 2612.

## HISTORY OF THE CASE Z.N.(S.) 2039

An application for the use of the plenary powers to designate a lectotype for *Ammonites defossus* Simpson, 1843, was received from Dr T.A. Getty (*Portsmouth City Museum, Portsmouth, England*), after some preliminary correspondence, on 12 March 1973. It was sent to the printer on 2 April 1973 and published on 28 June 1974 on pp. 185-187 of vol. 30 of the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature*. Public notice of the possible use of the plenary powers in the case was given in the same part of the *Bulletin* as well as to the prescribed serials (Constitution Art. 12b) and to two palaeontological serials.

Dr C.L. Forbes (*Sedgwick Museum, Cambridge, England*) criticised Dr Getty's choice of a specimen to be designated as lectotype of *A. defossus* and proposed a different specimen (*Bull. vol. 32: 80-81*) and his proposal was accepted by Dr Getty (: 81). No other comment was received.

## DECISION OF THE COMMISSION

On 22 September 1976 the members of the Commission were invited to vote under the Three-Month Rule on Voting Paper (1976)23 for or against the proposals set out in *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* vol. 30: 187 and modified in vol. 32: 81. At the close of the voting period on 22 December 1976 the state of the voting was as follows:

Affirmative Votes - twenty-one (21) received in the following order: Melville, Eisenmann, Mroczkowski, Holthuis, Vokes, Willink.

Lemche, Brinck, Rohdendorf, Tortonese, Ride, Habe, Binder, Corliss, Starobogatov, Bayer, Welch, Dupuis, Nye, Kraus, Bernardi  
Negative Vote - one (1): Sabrosky.

No Voting Paper was returned by Mr. Heppell. A late affirmative vote was returned by Dr Alvarado.

Dr Sabrosky commented: "I am sympathetic to the desire to base the species on specimen B.11945, but plenary powers are unnecessary. Buckman's so-called 'holotype' falls because it is demonstrably not a syntype: *defossus* was described from the Staithes Beds, but the Buckman specimen is embedded in brown calcite 'unlike anything known from the Staithes Beds'. Any author is free to disregard this 'holotype' and to designate a true lectotype from demonstrated syntypes, without the necessity of action by the Commission."

### ORIGINAL REFERENCE

The following is the original reference to a name placed on an Official List by the ruling given in the present Opinion:  
*defossus*, *Ammonites*, Simpson, 1843, *A monograph of the ammonites of the Yorkshire Lias* (London): 15.

### CERTIFICATE

I certify that the votes cast on voting paper (1976)23 were cast as set out above, that the proposal contained in that voting paper has been duly adopted under the plenary powers, and that the decision so taken, being the decision of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, is truly recorded in the present Opinion No. 1088.

R.V. MELVILLE

Secretary

*International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature*

London

8 March 1977